

Might I add as well, Mr. Speaker, that the election held in California yesterday did not show that the Democrats lost. It is just that the Republican candidate that ran was prochoice and progun control—Democratic issues—and I would imagine he would also vote for the American children to have good health care.

Let us stop the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Let us make this season what it is. It is the season of giving and sharing, it is the season for all Americans. It is not what the Republican majority wants to do—cutting good health care for the elderly, the disabled, and our poor children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to do the right and responsible thing and keep the Federal Government open. This is no time to let working people pay the price for petty partisan politics.

Let's pass another clean continuing resolution, if necessary, and work toward a balanced budget that is not built on the backs of the average, hard working Americans. A budget that protects the things we value: Medicare, Medicaid, education, and our environment.

Leaders in the other body have already agreed that there should not be another Government shutdown. We in the House need to join them in that agreement.

Mr. Speaker, don't be responsible for forcing thousands of decent, hard working people to wallow in doubt and uncertainty during what should be a joyous season. Don't make the American people pay because the Republican majority has not finished the budget work that should have been completed by them in October.

#### THE CRUEL REPUBLICAN AGENDA

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are now threatening to shut down the Government unless President Clinton signs on to the Republican plan to abandon our Nation's poorest, sickest, and most disabled citizens by repealing Medicaid.

This cruel Republican agenda will hurt children, veterans, pregnant women, and seniors. Two-thirds of Florida's nursing home residents get help from Medicaid. Almost a million children in Florida get emergency health care from Medicaid every year. These seniors, these children, and many of Florida's 2 million veterans may look to Medicaid in the next few years and find that they are out of luck.

When it comes to family values, the Republican Party talks the talk but they certainly do not walk the walk. And this budget proves it.

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#### REPUBLICANS SHOULD SUPPORT A BALANCED BUDGET THAT PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, in the continuing budget resolution agreement last month, the Republicans and the President committed to a balanced budget that "must protect the environment," but the current Republican budget plan declares war on the environment. It gives away millions to mining companies in the West. It allows massive timber harvesting in the Tongass National Forest and oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Republican plan guts the EPA's budget for enforcing our clean air and clean water laws and for continuing the cleanup of the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers in my district, all this to give billions in tax breaks to the already wealthy who do not need them. Not a very good trade, Mr. Speaker.

Republicans should live up to their agreement and support a balanced budget that protects the environment, rather than sacrificing it.

#### EXTREME REPUBLICAN AGENDA

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, legislation temporarily funding the Government expires, and hundreds of thousands of Government workers may be given another paid vacation. Last month this cost us \$800 million. Speaker GINGRICH and House Republicans have decided they want to use the threat of a Government shutdown as a leverage in the ongoing budget battle, flatly dismissing the importance of keeping many of our crucial programs up and running.

Let us make it absolutely clear the Republicans cannot force these mean-spirited cuts on the American people by holding the Government shutdown over our heads. They have targeted such programs as education cuts that help children, the COPS Program to help my Houston community hire over 375 new police officers, and veterans programs, which will result in 600 fewer VA medical center beds, 203,000 fewer inpatient visits, and 430,000 fewer outpatient visits at VA medical centers.

The American people do not want a Government shutdown. Let us extend this continuing resolution and finish the job we should have completed 2 months ago. Let us not hold another shutdown over our citizens' heads to try to pass these bills.

#### CALIFORNIANS AGREE WITH REPUBLICAN REFORMS

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about the results of an election in California that was held yesterday in a Democrat district where a Republican won by almost a 2 to 1 margin. Clearly, the people in that district, a Democrat district, understand that we are not cutting Medicare, we are slowing the rate of growth of Medicare, and they clearly understand that it is extremely important that the situation here in Washington has to change. We cannot continue to have runaway spending, runaway growth of programs. We have to balance our budget, and we have to balance our budget now.

In sending Tom Campbell to the U.S. Congress, the people of that Democrat district are saying the Democrats are not going to get the job done, they are going to continue to spend, we are going to continue to have deficits, and that we really do need to continue this change, this revolution that began in November 1994.

There will be one more voting with us beginning in a few days, and the people in California say they agree with what we are doing.

#### TRIAL AND SENTENCING OF WEI JINGSHENG IS GROSS VIOLATION OF IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM

(Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it took a Chinese court less than 6 hours on Wednesday to convict 1995 Nobel Peace Prize nominee Wei Jingsheng of conspiring to subvert the Government. He was sentenced to 14 years in the gulag, following Henry Wu.

The trial and sentencing of Wei Jingsheng is a gross violation of the core ideals of democracy and freedom. In April 1994 Wei disappeared in the Beijing bureaucracy. For 19 months he was not allowed to communicate with his family, with legal counsel, or with his colleagues. In December 1995 Wei had only a few days to prepare a trial and obtain a lawyer.

The only crime that Wei had committed was calling for democracy and human rights in China. Despite international pressure and opposition, people in China continue to be detained and sentenced for standing up for their fundamental rights.

I applaud Wei's courage and strength to speak out in opposition to the tyranny of his government. I appeal to the Government of China to release this man, guilty only of believing in freedom and democracy. And I call on the President of the United States to continue to press for the release of Wei Jingsheng, and not to relent until he is freed.